

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 /098 W
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R 020818Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0008
INFO /AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 793
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING0549

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR VN CB

SUBJ: NOTES ON INDOCHINA

REF: A) BANGKOK6230, B) VIENTIANE 263

1. WHILE WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING IN PEKING TO CORROBORATE OR REFUTE RUMORS OF AN IMPENDING VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE AGAINST CAMBODIA (REFTELS), WE HAVE PICKED UP A COUPLE OF TIDBITS WHICH BEAR ON VIETNAMESE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE CONFLICT.

2. ACCORDING TO A JAPANESE EMBOFF, THE VIETNAMESE COUNSELOR CALLED ON JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE LST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE CONFLICT. HE APPEARED VERY PESSIMISTIC, AND SAID THE WAR WOULD NOT END AS LONG AS POL POT WAS IN POWER. WHILE JAPANESE DO NOT THINK HE MEANT THIS AS A DIRECT THREAT TO
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OVERTHROW PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT, THE IMPLICATION IS CLEAR.

3. NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY COUNSELOR HAS JUST RETURNED TO PEKING FROM WEEK-LONG VISIT TO VIETNAM. WHILE IN HANOI, HE HEARD FROM FRENCH EMBASSY THERE THAT A HANOI RADIO BROADCAST HAD REFERRED TO THE FIGHTING AS NOT JUST A BORDER CONFLICT, BUT A WAR INSTIGATED BY THE CAMBODIAN

REGIME AS AN EXCUSE TO FURTHER OPPRESS ITS OWN PEOPLE.
FRENCH APPARENTLY READ THIS AS AN OMINOUS HINT THAT A
CHANGE IN THE PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT IS THE VIETNAMESE
OBJECTIVE.

4. FRENCH EMBOFF IN HANOI ALSO STATED THAT THE CHINESE
AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM HAD RETURNED TO PEKING SOME TEN DAYS
AGO, AND THAT VICE FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN HAD BEEN ON
THE SAME PLANE. DURING HIS TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIALS IN HANOI FEBRUARY 23, HOWEVER, OUR NEW ZEALAND
SOURCE GAINED IMPRESSION THAT HIEN WAS AT THAT TIME IN
HANOI. WE HAVE SEEN NO TOHER INDICATION HERE
THAT PHAN HIEN IS OR HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN PEKING.

5. DURING NEW ZEALAND COUNSELOR'S CALL AT FOREIGN MINSTRY,
VIETNAMESE HAD REFERRED TO THE OLD ICC AS THE TYPE OF
INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION THEY HAD IN MIND IN THEIR
FEBRUARY 5 PEACE PLAN. IT WAS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER
THE MODEL WAS THE ORIGINAL 1954 ICC OR ITS 1973 VERSION.
WOODCOCK

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NNN

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